

IT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS!

Acts 1:4-11

The central event for the establishment of the church was the coming of the Spirit.

Our Lord told His disciples that unless He leaves the Spirit couldn't come to do His work. John 14-16

The events preparing for His coming are described in Acts 1.

PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT 1:1-26

The story of the church's formation begins with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

However, the book of Acts begins with the preparation for His coming (1:1-26).

Final Instructions of Christ 1:1-11

Review of Luke's conclusion 1:1-3

The account begins where Luke ends.

Luke relates this book to the other in his introduction to Theophilus (1:1-3).

He first describes the things Jesus *began* to do and teach (1:1).

By implication, Luke describes the things He *continues* to do.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He remained on the earth with His followers for 40 days.

During that time, He confirmed their faith with many evidences to convince them of the reality of His power and His resurrection.

At the end of that time He gave them instructions to continue His ministry and He promised them God's provision to fulfill it (1:2-3 cp. Luke 24:36-49).

Promise of the Spirit's coming 1:4-8

After relating this account back to the conclusion of Luke (1:1-3), Luke focuses on one final meeting in which Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit

He picks up the account where he left off in Luke 24:46-53. 45-49

According to the gospel account, Jesus indicated that they would be witnesses of what they had seen.

That task would be carried out when He would send what the Father promised.

In order that the promise might be fulfilled, they would have to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power which He would send. (Luke 24:48-49)

This promise is the starting point of the Acts account.

The coming of the Holy Spirit:

Promised 1:4-8

Provided 2:1-36

Productive 2:37-28:31 => 2,0xx ? => ?

The disciples are told to go back to Jerusalem and wait for a few days until the Spirit comes (Acts 1:4).

He will come on them and as a result they will be filled with power to be witnesses of the Lord throughout the known world.

This event becomes the basis on which the rest of the book develops.

In explaining how God was going to do this, the Lord declared that they would be “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (1:5)

This same expression is used in 1 Cor. 12:13 to describe the way we become part of the body of Christ, the church.

When the Spirit comes to dwell in us, He makes us part of the body of Christ.

Some Christians try to question the parallelism between the two passages on the basis that Luke refers to “baptism with the Spirit” while Paul refers to “baptism by the Spirit.”

However, the expression in the original language is identical.

By this work of God, we all came to be part of God's people.

When we were integrated into the body, we received a gift, a means by which God equips us to function as a member of the body.

The most significant, and indispensable, gift for the launching of the early church was the public proclamation concerning Jesus Christ, in a language those present could understand, along with signs to verify that God had spoken. (cp. **Heb. 2:3b-4**).

This was visible evidence that God is at work.

When they used these gifts, God's power was demonstrated.

In that way the promise was fulfilled, but that wasn't the promise itself.

They received power *after* the coming of the Spirit on them, just as Jesus had promised.

It was the result of the Baptism of the Spirit, but it wasn't the *essence* of that baptism.

This work of the Spirit, which was seen for the first time on the day of Pentecost, has been seen in the church throughout centuries.

The baptism of the Spirit is God's work in the life of believers, by means of which those who are born again, are united with Him and with His church. (= membership)

As members of that body, we receive a spiritual gift, a capacity to serve Him which demonstrates His power at work in our life.

The presence of that power bears witness that the baptism of the Spirit has occurred in us (Acts 11:15-18).

Baptism by the Holy Spirit



Membership in the Body of Christ



Function within the body as members (spiritual gifts)



Demonstration of God's power

This visible evidence was important at several key moments in the development of the church to demonstrate that God is at work.

The apostles knew that the Holy Spirit's coming had been promised.

It had to happen before God's kingdom could be established on earth.

The apostles' concern 1:6

Therefore, when they heard this promise, they asked the logical next question: *“What about the kingdom? Would it be set up soon?”*

As faithful Jewish people, they desired the coming of the kingdom and wanted to know the truth (1:6).

Jesus' answer 1:7

Jesus doesn't contradict, nor try to change their concept of the kingdom. He didn't tell them they were wrong. They were absolutely correct in their assumption!

However, He does respond that it wasn't their place to analyze and interpret God's prophetic calendar. He hadn't called them to wander the countryside giving prophecy conferences (1:7).

Jesus' command 1:8

He called them to be His witnesses throughout the whole world (1:8).

In a few days the promise would be fulfilled. Then they would use the power God had given them to share the good news about Jesus around the world.

Which of these two roles has God called His people to fulfill today?

What difference will that role make in our lives?

*Why is this promise so important in the beginning of the church?
Was this promise and its implications for the apostles or the 1st
century church alone?*

*How does this promise compare with and relate to the Great
Commission in Matt 28?*

What's our responsibility today?

Although the places listed do have significance geographically, they also have reference to the distinct groups that would be reached through their witness. (Jews/Samaritans/Gentiles)

The promise provides the outline for the book also.

Description of the Lord's ascension 1:9-11

After Jesus leaves this final promise, the Lord ascends into heaven.

The disciples stand there watching, as if they expect something else to happen.

Angelic messengers tell them there's no point in waiting there watching. Now it's time to get on with what He told them to do.

They promise that He will return in the same way as He ascended into heaven.